



Butterfly &
Other
Invertebrates Club Inc.
Newsletter

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AIMS OF ORGANISATION

- To establish a network of people growing butterfly host plants;
- To hold information meetings about invertebrates;
- To organise excursions around the theme of invertebrates e.g. butterflies, fireflies, ants, dragonflies, beetles, freshwater habitats, and others;
- To promote the conservation of the invertebrate habitat;
- To promote the keeping of invertebrates as alternative pets;
- To promote research into invertebrates;
- To encourage the construction of invertebrate friendly habitats in urban areas.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINES

If you want to submit an item for publication the following deadlines apply:

March issue – February 21st; June issue – May 21st;

September issue – August 21st; December issue – November 21st

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

A quarterly meeting is now being scheduled in order to plan club activities and the newsletter. The next meeting is being held on Thursday, 5th August, 1999, at Kay and David McMahon's home. Please phone 3345 5594 for directions.



EDITORIAL

Hello all, or is that awl? Have you noticed the increasing attention to butterflies and other invertebrates? They seem to be getting ever more media attention. Harry Cooper's show did an interesting segment on a range of invertebrates as pets. The bit I saw included crickets, and burrowing cockroaches. ABC Radio's environment show covered a man who keeps snails in his bathroom to eliminate mould problems. Totally Wild has done a few stories with Frank Jordan in recent times. Recently Pat Comben ran a segment on White Nymphs. They had been breeding in Don Sand's extensive butterfly garden. Members of the club and others have been propagating its host plant, the Native Mulberry, for several years now. Over 250 plants have been sold by nurseries in the last year alone. This, among other plantings, will be starting to provide a good distribution and reserve of food for this butterfly to find. Many plants that I have inspected this year show tell tale signs of having provided lunch. For several years now this butterfly has seemed to become much more wide spread. Who knows - perhaps in another few years this butterfly may become a fairly reliable backyarder for those with the host plant. Happy butterfly gardening.

Helen Schwencke

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White Rock

On Sunday, 21st March a number of club members ventured out to near Ipswich to try to locate White Rock and see what sort of butterflies could be found in drier country. Albeit quite damp, with many water puddles from recent rain, it became a very productive day for a whole manner of invertebrates, some more easily identified than others.

Three out of the four local Grass Yellows were observed and Bob was able to point out their differences for the rest of us. Both the wet and dry season forms of the Evening Brown were present. As well we found a chrysalis and caterpillar of the Evening Brown on the grass, *Leersia hexandra*. The caterpillar was feeding on this grass.

The butterflies sighted included:

Common crow (*Euploea core*), Lesser wanderer (*Danaus chrysippus*),
Wanderer (*Danaus plexippus*), Speckled lineblue (*Catopyrops florinda*),
Small dusky blue (*Candalides erinus*), Pea blue (*Lampides boeticus*),
Small green-banded blue (*Psychonotis caelius taygetus*=*Danis hymetus*),
Common grass blue (*Zizina labradus*),
Lemon migrant (*Catopsilia pomona*), Orange ringlet (*Hypocysta adiante*),
Northern ringlet (*Hypocysta irius*), Chequered swallowtail (*Papilio demoleus*),
No-brand grass yellow (*Eurema brigitta*), Small grass yellow (*Eurema smilax*),
Common grass yellow (*Eurema hecabe*), Glasswing (*Acraea andromacha*),
Evening brown (*Melanitis leda*), Maheta Skipper (*Trapezites maheta*),
Doubleday's skipper (*Toxidia doubledayi*), Grass dart (*Ocybadistes sp.*)
Dingy dart (*Suniana lascivia lascivia*), Pale dart (*Telicota colon argeus*)

Other invertebrates

Ten species of cicadas, namely:

Black Yodeller (*Psaltoda pictibasis*) (also known as Black Friday),
Yellowbelly (*Psaltoda harrisii*), Cherrynose (*Macrotristria angularis*)
Brown Bunyip (*Tamasa tristigma*), Bronze Buzzer (*Pauropsalta circumdata*)
Red Squeaker (*Pauropsalta rubea*), Bark Squeaker (*Pauropsalta corticinus*)
Small Bark Squeaker (*Pauropsalta fuscata*), Paperbark Cicada (*Cicadetta hackeri*)
Wattle Cicada (*Cicadetta oldfieldi*)

The following interesting but unidentified invertebrates were also seen:

An ant mimicking preying mantis, an orange day-flying moth which bore some resemblance to the Australian Fritillary in colouration and markings, a speckled moth, two different species of iridescent wasps, and horseflies (?March Flies)

(which were very unwelcome).



Spiders: *Gastercantha minax* the Common Jewel Spider

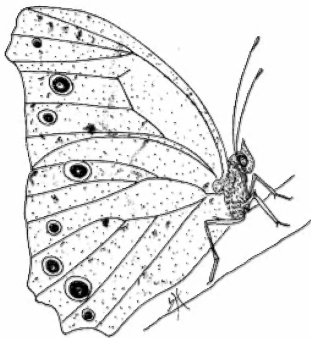
After returning from White Rock we had just enough time to visit a site where *Pomaderris lanigera* was growing. We were looking for the Yellow Spot Jewel (*Hypochrysops byzos*), but unfortunately didn't find any this time. We did hear another cicada, the Razor Grinder (*Henicopsaltria eydouxii*), making a total of eleven cicadas for the day.

Helen Schwencke, Frank Jordan and Lindsay Popple

Report on BOIC Excursion to Currumbin Valley on 24th April 1999

Our outing to the Currumbin Valley came during a spell of perfect autumn weather - the like of which we haven't seen since!!

A disappointingly small group turned up for the walk through Tarrabora Reserve with John Palmer who pointed out the different "bushfood" plants for us as well as highlighting the regrowth and weed eradication areas which had been taken on by various groups.



Evening Brown

Insects were not numerous due to the cooler nights being experienced although Black and White Tiger, Common Jezebel and Evening Brown (among others) were seen. An earlier start may have been advantageous.

John then took us quickly to the Bee House at the Currumbin Bird Sanctuary (gifted to the National Trust by Alec Griffiths) and the staff were able to show us the different types of bees as well as a queen bee.

We then proceeded into the Currumbin Valley with a late afternoon stop at Nicoll National Park where more of Alec Griffiths work for conservation could be seen, though it was a little late for any serious invertebrate searching.

After a meal stop at the Currumbin Rock Pool (where we were entertained by some impromptu guitar playing by John, as well as some fine classical playing by Lindsay Popple) we moved on to Mt. Cougal National Park for the Glow-worms.

These were found in profusion just off the main walking track and were a fitting end to an unusual club outing.

Pine Mountain (Ipswich), adjoining Sapling Pocket Nature Reserve

Three members of BOIC joined members of SGAP and other groups on Sunday 16th May, to visit the new addition to council owned land at Pine Mountain



at Ipswich. This is a remarkable place, not only for invertebrates but also for plants, birds and other wildlife. It is mostly dry vine forest including some portions of Hoop Pine scrub that have never been logged or cleared. A real treasure, and the Ipswich Council are to be applauded for preserving it and making it accessible to the public.



Although it was already late autumn, we managed to record the presence of 33 butterflies and the Bottle cicada (*Glaucopsaltria viridis*). A quick perusal of the plant list revealed the presence of many butterfly host plants, and so even more species are likely to be recorded during Spring and Summer. Large numbers of Chalky and Common Pearl Whites were seen, as well as two colour forms of the Australian Gull. Many fine specimens of *Secamone elliptica* were encountered, many still showing the empty chrysalises of the Blue Tiger butterflies which breed on it. The complete list for the day follows:

Meadow argus (*Junonia villida*), Australian painted lady (*Vanessa kershawi*)
 Wanderer (*Danaus plexippus*), Dark purple azure (*Orgyris abrota*)
 Common pearl white (*Elodina angulipennis*), Common aeroplane (*Phaedyra shepherdii*), Yellow migrant (*Catopsilia gorgophone*)
 Common albatross (*Appias paulina*), Australian gull (*Cepora perimale*)
 Common eggfly (*Hypolimnys bolina*), Chequered swallowtail (*Papilio demoleus*)
 Common grass yellow (*Eurema hecabe*), Lyell's swift (*Pelopidas lyelli*)
 Glasswing (*Acraea andromacha*), Lemon migrant (*Catopsilia pomona*)
 Common crow (*Euploea core*), Australian leafwing (*Doleschallia bisaltide*)
 Small green-banded blue (*Psychonotis caelius taygetus*=*Danis hymetus*),
 Six Lineblue (*Nacaduba berenice*)
 Common grass blue (*Zizina labradus*), Common brown ringlet (*Hypocysta metirius*)
 Evening brown (*Melanitis leda*), Fuscous swallowtail (*Papilio fuscus*)
 Large dingy skipper (*Toxidia peronii*), Yellow-banded dart (*Ocybadistes walkeri*)
 White lineblue (*Nacaduba kurava*), Small grass yellow (*Eurema smilax*)
 Chalk white (*Elodina parthia*), Orange dart (*Suniana sunias*)
 Blue tiger (*Danaus hamatus*), White nymph (*Mynes geoffroyi*)
 Common jezebel (*Delias nigrina*), Purple crow (*Euploea tulliolus*)
 Frank Jordan

REPORTS

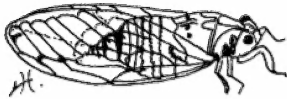
Having been an avid birdwatcher for many years I have often tried to see (and hear) as many birds as I can in a day - 12 hours rather than 24.



It occurred to me that the same could be attempted with butterflies, cicadas, dragonflies etc. The formula would be similar - try to cover as many different habitats and elevations as possible during the day.

Lindsay Popple and I decided to do a "Cicada Run" on Sunday the 10th January, 1999. With cicadas we would be primarily relying on song as many species call from high up in the trees and are difficult to see - most specimens being taken at light.

I had the transport - Lindsay had the expertise!!



Brown Bunyip

The weather was already hot and humid as we started around 0630 at Lindsay's place. We recorded Brown Bunyip (*Tamasa tristigma*), Small Bottle Cicada (*Chlorocysta vitripennis*) and the Sprinkler Cicada (*Pauropsalta annulata*) in his garden. We then moved on to Avalon Road at Sheldon - I drive this way to work every day and had found it to be rich in different species.

Driving slowly along the road we soon added the Paperbark Cicada (*Cicadetta hackeri*), Bark Cicada (*Pauropsalta corticinus*), Wattle Cicada (*Cicadetta oldfieldi*), Razor Grinder (*Henicopsaltria exdouxii*), Clanging Cicada (*Psaltoda claripennis*) and Floury Baker (*Abrieta curvicosta*).



Wattle Cicada

The time was only 0730 and we already had 9 (albeit common) species and the day looked like being very successful.

A short trip to J.C. Trotter Park at Burbank yielded a further 5 species - Bronze Buzzer (*Pauropsalta circumdata*), Small Bark Squeaker (*Pauropsalta fuscata*), Yellowbelly (*Psaltoda harrisii*), Black Treeticker (*Birrima varians*) - flying and calling with its characteristic duck-like "quacks" - and a lone Double Drummer (*Thopha saccata*).

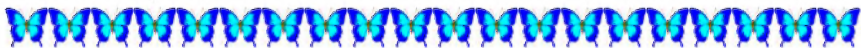


Black Tree Ticker

We now needed to put some miles behind us and after a quick (and ultimately fruitless) trip to Thorneside to try for the Mangrove Cicada (*Arunta interclusa*) and White Drummer (*Arunta perulata*) we headed off to our next port of call - Cunningham's Gap.

Lindsay's sharp ears picked up some cicada songs as we climbed the range and pausing half way up we added Black Yodeller (=Black Friday) (*Psaltoda pictibasis*) and Fence Buzzer (*Notopsalta atrata*). As we reached the top of the range we recorded Green Bunyips (*Tamasa rainbowsi*) - a species always found at higher altitudes.

A walk through the rainforest to the Lookout gave us our first taste of what can be a very frustrating thing for cicada "buffs" (especially new chums like myself) - undescribed species!! We heard calls of at least 4 different "undescribed" cicadas. A



further one with which we were not familiar was later identified as the Black Squeaker (*Pauropsalta encaustica*). At the Lookout (in the drier vegetation) we added the Red Squeaker (*Pauropsalta rubea*) to the list. We watched one narrowly avoid being lunch for a Striated Thornbill.

A stop at the bottom picnic ground revealed an undescribed "wattle-like" cicada (which remained just out of our reach!!) with a very distinctive song which included wing clapping.

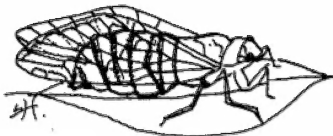
We then moved on to the Leslie Dam outside Warwick for lunch and here found a cicada which is closely related to the Bark Cicada (*Pauropsalta corticinus*) - the call is similar though *corticinus*' call can best be described as "somewhat drunken" and variable while the new species (??) has a much more regimented call. In addition it is stouter of body and seemingly not as wary as *corticinus*.

After lunch we left the Leslie Dam and heard a Cherry Nose (*Macrotristria angularis*) calling on the ridges. We then headed towards Gatton via Clifton. Unfortunately we now encountered rain, heavy at times, which had threatened all day and it continued, with few respites, for the rest of the day.

During one of these respites at Ma Ma Creek near Gatton we were lucky (if Lindsay's ability to pick up even the quietest of calls can be considered luck) to pick up a small colony of Yellow Sugarcane Cicadas (*Parnkalla muelleri*). These very small and colourful cicadas usually emerge after heavy rains and the adults are usually dead within a couple of days so we were fortunate to be in the right place at the right time.

With the rain well and truly set in all calling had virtually ceased and we were unable to check out good locations in the Esk, Lowood areas. We made our way up the Northbrook Parkway to Mt. Glorious and at Jolly's Lookout we recorded (at dusk) our

last 2 species for the day - Bottle Cicada (*Glaucopsaltria viridis*) and Bladder Cicada (*Cystosoma saundersii*).



Small Bottle Cicada

We arrived back at Lindsay's place around 8.30 pm having travelled over 400km and recorded 23 species and a further 6 undescribed species.

If only that blasted rain hadn't arrived!!

Oh well, there's always next "Cicada Season". Special thanks to Lindsay for his knowledge and companionship.

Rob Macsloy

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Some of our readers who enjoyed the Nature Note "Fellow travellers in a Caper White migration" (BOIC Newsletter No.12, March '99) wanted to know what



other insects the Queensland Naturalists Club members encountered in the Boondall, Deagon and Tinchi Tamba Wetlands on 18th October, 1998, The following are extracts from John Moss' excursion report from the QNC News No. 222 Jan/Feb. 1999.

"We met at the Nudgee Beach Environmental Education Centre. Two and a half years on, the planted rainforest plots were looking good and yes, the butterflies were still utilising all the local and NQ hostplants.

We proceeded to the Nudgee Beach mangrove boardwalk and bird hide. The River Mangroves, *Aegiceras corniculatum*, were in full flower and we noted at least four species of pierid butterflies feasting on the nectar, including the Caper White, which was at the height of a migration, with dozens passing over the boardwalk in any one minute and heading in a NNW direction towards the Redcliffe peninsula.



Caper White



Black & White Tiger

A little further on we came to an area where the ground and smaller trees were festooned with a hoyo-like scrambler, *Cynanchum carnosum*. This is the hostplant of the Black and White Tiger butterfly (which is really brown and white) and soon to be renamed the "Swamp" or "Marsh" Tiger in a new Australian butterfly book currently in preparation at the CSIRO Entomology Division in Canberra. We noted a few

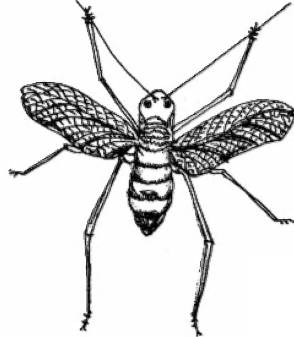
females of this species (and a female Lesser Wanderer) ovipositing on the plants. This plant is also said to be a secondary host species for the Blue Tiger butterfly which at this latitude prefers to feed on another climber, *Secamone elliptica*.

After lunch we proceeded further along the Gateway Motorway to Bald Hills, to enable us to access the Tinchi Tamba Wetland Environment Park which is sandwiched in between the Pine River and Bald Hills Creek. Since our last visit, two new boardwalks have been built, as well as infrastructure improvements at what we found to be a very popular picnic spot. Firstly, we followed the longer boardwalk which is a loop partly parallelling the Pine River and then doubling back to rejoin itself. Here we could see that some of the Swamp Oaks, *Casuarina glauca*, were festooned with two species of mistletoe, *Amyema cambagei* which, with its narrow leaves, somewhat resembles its host, and *Lysiana subfalcata* ssp. *maritima* which was somewhat unexpected although it has been reported once on Swamp Oaks at Redland Bay. This latter mistletoe could easily be mistaken for at least two others (an *Amyema* and a



Muellerina) and, ideally, flowering specimens should be obtained before identification can be assured.

A few specimens of the Satin Azure butterfly were noted as their bright metallic blue wing uppersides flashed in the afternoon sun. Their hostplant is *Amyema cambagei*, whilst the Common and Northern Jezebels, which were also seen appear to use the *Lysiana subfalcata* ssp. *maritima*."

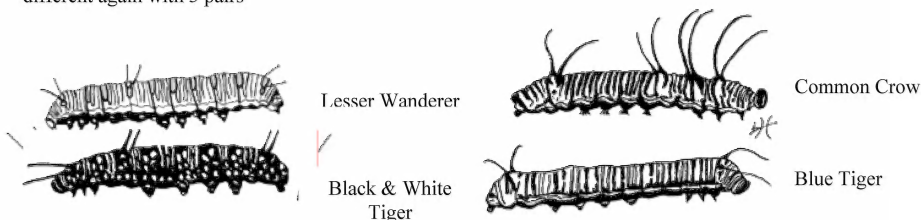


Mountain Katydid

In the same newsletter was a report of a QNC excursion to "Draper's Forest" Samford Valley on Sunday 8th November, 1998, wherein many interesting insects and host plants were found. For the benefit of our readers we have extracted a few of the highlights from John Moss' report. (See also Creature Note #13 BOIC Newsletter No. 11, December 1998.)

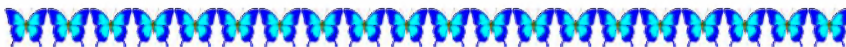
"After a brief introduction by Irwin Draper and a short talk on the history of the Samford Valley by our local long-serving member, Dr Pat Marks, we headed off down the Mailman's Track and entered the forest by a still uncleared ridge.

Not far down the slope we encountered a large Corky Milk Vine, *Secamone elliptica* one of only two known local hostplants for the Blue Tiger butterfly. Not surprisingly, we immediately found two larvae feeding on the sparse foliage. A Common Crow butterfly larva was also present. A comparison was made which showed the Blue Tiger larva had (like its cousin, the Wanderer) two pairs of fleshy appendages, whereas the Common Crow had four pairs. (Lesser Wanderer and Black and White Tiger are different again with 3 pairs



Another insect which enthralled us was the Mountain Katydid, *Acripeza reticulata*, which belongs to the true Katydid family, the Tettigoniidae. An adult female of this aposematic species lifted the short black tegmina away from its abdomen and exposed its warning colouration - a bright red, white and blue banding. It is not generally known that this species occurs in the Brisbane region, although it is by no means as common as it is in the Brindabella and Snowy Mountains regions.

It was disappointing that the bush was so dry on this occasion, and on finding the creek (after an uphill diversion!) it too was waterless. However, the riparian



vegetation looked healthy enough and two of us had the good luck to find a female Margarita Blue butterfly ovipositing on the mistletoe *Dendrophthoe vitellina* growing on a creekside *Callistemon viminalis*. This mistletoe was also noted on *Acacia aulococarpa*, and itself was parasitised by both *Viscum articulatum*, the 'leafless' mistletoe, and *Notothixos subaureus* or 'golden' mistletoe.

For those of us who stayed on, lunch was spent out of the heat under the shade of two enormous Moreton Bay Fig trees, on a hill overlooking the South Pine River as it flowed through the Drapers' main property. A small remnant of riparian 'scrub' was noted below the hill, towards which ventured the handful of us remaining. We spent a further hour or so admiring butterflies feasting on the nectar of *Waterhousia floribunda* flowers and enjoying the sights of colourful dragonflies darting over the still clear waters of a billabong.

Native fish, probably Australian Rainbows, a large eel and a river tortoise were seen in the cool water before we made our own departure for cooler places. A total of 28 species of butterflies were seen on this excursion.

John Moss

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A Swarm of Butterflies in Tinchí Tamba

Whilst walking through Tinchí Tamba Wetlands Reserve on Sunday 9th May, 1999, I noticed swarms of small, brownish butterflies on and around some flowering specimens of *Myoporum acuminatum*, a prostrate woody shrub (Family Myoporaceae) that grows in coastal areas. These were growing in an area of the Reserve, which is known locally as "the Oaks", a patch of Swamp Oak (*Casuarina glauca*) adjacent to the lower reaches of the Pine River. I collected a couple of specimens of these butterflies and sent them, via my wife, to the Queensland Museum, where they were identified as the Saltpan Blue (*Theclinesthes sulphitius*).

Whilst *Myoporum acuminatum* is quite common throughout the Reserve this is the first time I had seen such large numbers of butterflies of this or any other species on it. The butterflies were alighting on two specimens of the plant as well as flying just above it. Both plants covered an area of a few square metres each, one growing in the middle of a patch of trees the other was on the western edge of a patch. I also noted some specimens of the same butterfly on a nearby patch of the succulent herb, Sea Purselane (*Sesuvium portulacastrum*), which was also in flower. Common and Waterhouse (1982) lists the Saltpan Blue's food plants as Berry Saltbush (*Rhagodea* spp.), a samphire (*Tecticornia australasica*), Common Samphire (*Sarcocornia quinqueflora*) and other saltbushes (Family Chenopodiaceae) so why were these butterflies all over this particular species?

Reference: Common I.F.B. & Waterhouse D.F. (1982) *Butterflies of Australia (Field Edition)* Angus and Robertson.

David Barnes



Ed. note: Presumably a good source of local nectar - very unlikely to be a larval host plant, as in the wrong family.

CREATURE FEATURE

SOLDIER BEETLE:

Around Christmas last year we noticed masses of small beetles clinging together in clumps all over several bushes and a couple of trees. Almost like a swarm of bees, they were hanging like fruit from every twig. This infestation gradually tapered off until by the end of January they were no longer to be found. These creatures, about 15 millimetres long and narrow, just over 3 mm. wide, had dark olive wing-cases, an orange body and black heads.

After much searching, an illustration of these creatures was found, naming them Plague Soldier Beetles. Their appearance occurred about three weeks after a severe bushfire in the district (Ravensbourne) and it may be possible that the stimulus of the fire caused them all to appear simultaneously. After many enquiries amongst the locals, some long-term residents of the area seemed to remember seeing them, but many years ago. Somewhere towards the end of May I started to see what seemed like small black grubs on the ground over a considerable area, but by and large not too far from where the beetles were seen. Not linking the two events at first, I was nonetheless intrigued to see that some, which were on a meat-ants nest, were totally ignored by the ants. They all looked freshly dead, but on reflection, may have just been lying "doggo".

I have seen them in more and more areas since then, up to 1 kilometre away. Some I collected nearly two weeks ago had reduced a freshly-fallen leaf to a skeleton in a couple of hours. These I showed to John Moss, who immediately searched his literature on beetles and it appears that these are definitely the larval form of those Soldier Beetles.

From the Family Cantharidae; the larva are said to be carnivorous, but not a lot is known about their life cycle. Perhaps they are omnivorous? Why did they appear so suddenly? Hundreds of thousands of adults, and now, probably millions of young (about 500 or more were collected in less than one square metre). What are their predators? Did they fly into this area or were they there all along? So conspicuous and yet nobody had seen them for many years! Yet another of Nature's many mysteries.

Jim Johnston

As Jim comments, I searched the books and the Internet following the appearance of these beetles. My experience had been with a related family, the Lycidae (Flower Beetles) and to a lesser extent Lampyridae (Fireflies). All three families are relatively poorly represented in Australia and were once considered to be a single family, the Malacodermidae.



In Australia, Soldier Beetles occur mostly in coastal areas. They are small to medium sized (3-20 mm long), soft-bodied, elongate and usually coloured in various combinations of red, yellow, brown and bluish-black. In some species the wings and wing covers (elytra) only partially cover the abdomen and others extend the whole length (fig. 1 - after F. Nanniaga, C.S.I.R.O.).



Fig. 1 - Soldier

Overseas, especially in the USA, Soldier Beetles are more in evidence and the following extract from Iowa Insect Information Service (by Donald Lewis, Department of Entomology, Iowa State University) is quite informative.

"Soldier beetles are a common outdoor insect that can be abundant accidental invaders as either larvae or adults. Soldier beetles are nicknamed leatherwings because of their soft, clothlike wing covers, which when brightly colored are reminiscent of uniforms. The beetles are elongate, soft-bodied and about 1/2" long. Colors vary from yellow to red with brown or black wings or trim. Soldier beetles resemble lightning bugs but do not have light-producing organs."



Fig 2. - Soldier Beetle larva

"Soldier beetle larvae are long, slender and worm-like. The sides of the body appear rippled or scalloped because of indentations within each body segment (see fig. 2). The body is covered with tiny dense bristles and appears velvety. Color is dark brown to gray. The larvae usually spend the winter in damp soil and debris or under loose bark. They are particularly abundant as accidental invaders inside the house in the fall when they are searching for protected locations in which to spend the winter."

"Both adults and larvae are predacious and feed on other insects. The adults eat caterpillars, aphids, and other soft-bodied insects and can be important predators. As they lie in wait for prey on flowers such as goldenrod they may feed on nectar and pollen but they do no damage to the plants."

"Since soldier beetles are beneficial and harmless it is unnecessary to control them. Larvae that enter a house in the fall are only a nuisance. Entry can be prevented by weather-stripping, caulking and other measures that seal likely points of entry. Spraying of either the exterior perimeter or the interior has little if any benefit. Soldier beetles already inside the house need only be swept or picked up and discarded."

It is not known with certainty what the Australian species feed on, although there is no doubt the larvae we observed certainly ate the leaf material. Barry Moore (Fascicle



No. 9 of "A Guide to the Beetles of South-eastern Australia") says -
 "Both adult and larval cantharids are, at least in part, predacious, but little is known of the feeding habits of the local species." Hawkeswood (Beetles of Australia, Angus & Robertson, 1987) comments "Many species feed as adults on nectar from native plants - the larvae are said to be carnivorous feeding upon smaller invertebrates."

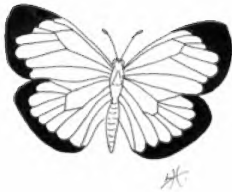
CSIRO's authoritative Insects of Australia Volume II 1991, says in part.
 "Adult cantharids are active during daylight and are sometimes found in large numbers on flowers and vegetation." (Jim's observations confirm this.) "They are known to attack other insects, but they may feed as well on pollen, nectar and fresh foliage." "Larvae are common in soil and leaf litter where they are usually general predators. Some Holarctic species, however, are known to be phytophagous" (plant eating!), which would indicate that this may be true of at least the species we observed.

John Moss

CREATURE NOTES

Creature Note # 16 - The Much Too Common Grass Yellow?

One of the joys of mid Autumn is the arrival of lots of Common Grass Yellow (*Eurema hecabe*) butterflies. Our garden contains several different host plants for this butterfly, and as a result some of these travellers usually hang around for a while. This year has been especially good and most days we have had at least 8 butterflies fluttering around.



Understandably, our host plants have become covered in their thin white eggs. However, only a few of those have made it through to adulthood, most becoming food for predators.



One day I noticed a chrysalis receiving a lot of attention from two male butterflies who spent a lot of time jostling or fighting for the right to perch on the chrysalis. The next day when the female emerged from the chrysalis it became clear why. The stronger of the two males was mating with her, before she even had a chance to fly away. I had read that some butterflies did this but now have seen it for myself.



This year I also noticed that occasionally eggs were laid on clover plants (*Trifolium* sp.). I also saw this at Manly West and Boondall. Curious, I brought some of these eggs inside to see if the caterpillars would survive. The first egg collected on 9th April emerged as an adult butterfly on the 15th May. Two more chrysalises are in waiting and 3 more caterpillars are still munching. The common Grass Yellow has several host plants to choose from. Adding the introduced clover



plant to its repertoire would certainly explain how they are able to build up to such enormous numbers in some years.

Frank Jordan

Creature Note # 17 - White Nymph

On Monday 17th May we saw the White Nymph butterfly (*Mynes geoffroyi*) make it onto TV on Pat Comben's segment after the 6.00pm news on Channel 7. Butterflies are shy media performers at the best of times but Don Sands did a good job of coaxing them to come out for the cameras in his garden.

The White nymph breeds on the native mulberry (*Pipturus argenteus*). During the last few years, hundreds of these trees have been planted in gardens and revegetation projects. It seems that a critical mass may have finally been reached and the butterfly is turning up nearly everywhere that its host plant is growing.

Hopefully, as a result of viewing this segment even more people will be encouraged to grow this host plant and experience the joys of butterfly gardening.



White Nymph on *Pipturus*

Frank Jordan

RICHMOND BIRDWING CONSERVATION PROJECT

The following "Homes needed for threatened caterpillars" is a media release provided at the launch of the Richmond Birdwing Conservation Project 'Adopt a Caterpillar Scheme' held at the Tingalpa State Primary School, on Thursday 15 April 1999.

The vivid green, blue and black wings of the Richmond Birdwing Butterfly were once a common sight in the back gardens of northern NSW and southern Queensland. In recent times the butterfly has disappeared from two-thirds of its original habitat and school children are being called upon to 'adopt a caterpillar' in a bid to save this endangered species.

The Richmond Birdwing Conservation Project, 'Adopt a Caterpillar Scheme', is an exciting new initiative of CSIRO's Double Helix Science Club supported by Bayer Australia. This scheme encourages school children and community members to plant Richmond Birdwing vines, the Butterfly's natural food source. When the vines are large enough, they can adopt and raise Richmond Birdwing caterpillars.



The Richmond Birdwing has declined in numbers due to the destruction of their natural habitat, the Richmond Birdwing vine (*Pararistolochia praevenosa*). Compounding the problem is an introduced plant, the Dutchman's Pipe vine - a 'fatal attraction' for Birdwing's - with leaves that are toxic to its caterpillars.

Coordinator of the scheme Dr Don Sands, retired CSIRO Entomologist said, "By participating in the 'Adopt a Caterpillar Scheme', school children and community members will gain a better understanding of life cycles of insects and an awareness of the importance of scientific research to preserve threatened species. The scientific information generated by school children and community members will assist in recolonising this precious species.

"A unique feature of this conservation project is that it can be done in your own backyard. Members of the community often feel powerless to tackle conservation issues, but this project will allow them to take an active role in the conservation of a threatened species," he said.

Bayer's sponsorship of the project has permitted a wider application of the 'Adopt a Caterpillar Scheme' and enabled the CSIRO to construct a flightcage for rearing the young caterpillars. Managing Director of Bayer Australia, Mr Jeurgen Selck said, "As a research based company, we understand the need to invest in community projects which provide vital scientific data for the survival of an endangered species.

Hopefully Bayer's involvement in the scheme will ensure the Richmond Birdwing is once again a common sight in our back gardens."

How people can help save the Richmond Birdwing butterfly

1. Plant Richmond Birdwing vines.
These inexpensive vines can be bought as seedlings from local nurseries.
2. If people are already growing Richmond Birdwing vines, they should contact CSIRO Education Centre for a survey form (details below). This will help the CSIRO in their research to assess vine suitability for supporting caterpillars.
3. Remove the Dutchman's Pipe vine from their gardens. Contact the CSIRO Education Centre for further information on identifying the vine.



To receive further information and/or survey form, people can contact Brisbane CSIRO Science Education Centre, P.M.B. 3 Indooroopilly, Queensland, 4068. Telephone: 07 3214 2860, Fax: 07 3214 2883. Email Sue.Scott@squid.helix.csiro.au.

"BYE - GONE BUTTERFLY DAYS"

Congratulations to Jim Johnston who was able to throw some light on the whereabouts of the Bulimba Swamps. It seems that his father lived in the area and as a child played in those same swamps, which are much reduced these days and exist only as a small area of dry parkland at Bulimba Point.

Formerly the swamp occupied a larger area from Johnston St. (yes, named after Jim's grandfather) westward towards Bulimba Point, and extended southwards to the base of a ridge along which runs Brisbane Street (see it on your current UBD maps p.140 and 160). Older maps such as UBD 31st edition have the full area on one page (map 19).

Congratulations also to Jim for getting the greatest number of butterfly names correct in our "Bye-Gone Butterfly" article last issue. It was difficult, particularly as a typographical error appeared which turned *Candalides margarita* into *C. 'argarota*. Thanks Ed. for this sabotage - it ensured no one could get a perfect score! (Not a problem. I do it effortlessly. Ed.)

In March this year Jim and I had the pleasure of visiting Sylvia Peach's property at Burbank and noted 6 of the 7 *Nacaduba* species as listed by Illidge. Also noted were Purple Crows (*Euploea tulliolus*) and on a visit in April, a female White Nymph (*Mynes geoffroyi*) which was seen ovipositing on the underside of a leaf of Native Mulberry (*Pipturis argenteus*) (see Plant Profile p.15 of Issue No 10). The procedure took about 15-20 minutes and we noted a total of 46 eggs, placed in a tight cluster reminiscent of silk moths and glasswing butterflies.

The following is Rowland Illidge's 1908 list with current scientific and common names and suggested standardised "common" name (see comment last issue).

Salatura affinis - *Danaus affinis* - Black and White Tiger/Brown Tiger - Marsh or Swamp Tiger

Anosia menippe - *Danaus plexippus* - Wanderer - Monarch

Chanapa corrina - *Euploea core corrina* - Common Crow - (same)

Junonia villida - *Junonia villida calybe* - Meadow Argus - (same)

Pyrameis itea - *Vanessa itea* - Australian Admiral - Yellow Admiral

Hypolimnas bolina - *H. bolina nerina* - Common Eggfly - Varied Eggfly

Neptis Shepherdi - *Phaedyra shepherdi* - Common Aeroplane - White-banded Plane or Southern Glider

Melanitis leda - *M. leda bankia* - Evening Brown - Common Evening Brown

Danis hymetus taygetus - *Thysonotis hymeritus taygetus* - *Psychonotis caelius taygetus* - Small Green-banded Blue - (same)

Candalides margarita - (same) - Margarita Blue - Trident Pencilled-blue

Nacaduba ancyra var. *florinda* - *Catopyrops florinda halys* - Speckled Line-blue



Nacaduba lineata - *Erysichton lineata* - Hairy Line-blue
Nacaduba palmyra - *Erysichton palmyra tasmanicus* - Marbled Line-blue
Nacaduba dion (confused with *N. perusia parma*) - *N. kurava parma* - White Line-blue - White-banded Line-blue
Nacaduba berenice - (same) - Six Line-blue - Large Purple Line-blue
Nacaduba dubiosa - *Prosotas felderi* - Felder's Line-blue - Southern Line-blue
Ogyris amaryllis - (same) - Satin Azure - (same) - (also was "Amaryllis azure")
Terias hecabe - *Eurema hecabe* (*sulphurata* or *phoebus*) - Common Grass Yellow - Large Grass-yellow
Terias libythea (*zoraide*) - *Eurema brigitta australis* - No-brand Grass-yellow
Terias smilax - *Eurema smilax* - Small Grass-yellow
Elodina angulipennis - same - Common Pearl White - Southern Pearl-white
Elodina parthia - same - Chalk White - Striated or Chalky Pearl-white
Belenois java - *Anaphaeis java teutonia* - *Belenois j.t.* - Caper White - (same)
Huphina perimale - *Cepora perimale scyllara* - Australian Gull - Caper Gull
Appias ega - *Appias paulina ega* - Common Albatross - Yellow Albatross
Delias argenthona (Northern Jezebel) , *D. nigrina* (Common Jezebel) and *D. nysa* (*Nysa Jezebel*) - scarlet, Black and Yellow-spotted Jezebels

John Moss

LETTERS

Dear Daphne,

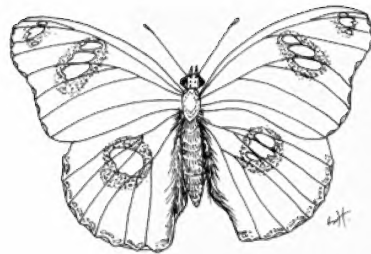
I thought our club members might be interested in a Christmas present a friend gave me, in the form of a Butterfly House for ages 4 and up! She was concerned I might be offended, but having childlike curiosity, I was thrilled.

Inside were lots of fun projects for children to do as well as the instructions for assembling the house, which my nephew had great fun doing. Also included were 2 ordering forms for pupa. Up to 4 pupa could be ordered per coupon costing \$3.00



each plus \$6.00 postage and handling. I ordered 4, curious to see what they would be, especially as they were coming from Melbourne.

It took several weeks for them to arrive, each attached to a sticky backed stick with which to adhere them to the clear roof with.



Common Eggyfly

One came unstuck and had



to be re-glued with Aquadhere but he was the first to emerge, a gorgeous black, blue and white Common Egg Fly quickly followed by a female Common Egg Fly. (I wish they had a more appropriate name.) They are so beautiful. Several days later another pair emerged, but spent some time indoors as the rain just bucketed down. We enjoyed their beauty for quite a while as they feasted in our garden. Some time later I found three Common Egg Fly caterpillars, resplendent in their black coats with orange spikes, on a *Sida Retusa* one of their host plants and when two disappeared, brought the remaining one into the safety of the Butterfly House where she dutifully pupated and emerged, perhaps the offspring of our Melbourne immigrants, to grace our garden with her brown/black/white and orange beauty. A worthwhile project from Moose Labs., PO. Box 959, Merlynston, Vic. 3058. Email: info@moosetoys.com
Internet site : <http://www.moosetoys.com>

Lois Hughes

PLANT PROFILE

Trophis (Malaisia) scandens or "Burny Vine" is a climbing/scrambling member of the Moraceae or Fig family, which hosts two of our lovely "Crow" butterflies - *Euploea fulliolus* (Eastern Brown or Purple Crow) and *E. darchia* (Darwin Brown or White-margined Crow). The common name "Burney" comes from the file-like nature of the stems which are covered in masses of closely spaced lenticels - the implication being that if you quickly run your hand down the stem, a burning sensation can arise. I have tried it - but I'm not all that impressed.



Eastern Brown Crow on *Malaisia Scandens*

One should not confuse this name with the common name of the vine *Mucuna gigantea* - Burny or Burny Bean - an unrelated species (in the family Fabaceae) and also a butterfly host plant.

It has an enormous distribution- virtually the whole of eastern Asia including Malaysia/Indonesia etc. and the Pacific including P.N.G. etc. - and occurs along creeks, rainforest margins or cleared rainforest areas.

I have not been able to ascertain the



etymology of the generic name *Malaisia*, which has recently been dropped by the botanists in favour of the less interesting *Trophis* (which appears to be happening all too regularly of late with many of our familiar botanical taxa (eg. *Melodorum* for *Rauwenhoffia*). It is tempting to assume that the name has a geographical aetiology, because I can well remember coming across it in the tropical forests of the Malay Peninsular where it is host to several species of *Euploea*.

In spite of its widespread distribution, it is not always easy to find. Generally its leaves are dull green and in drought conditions fairly sparse. They are quite tough and only the juvenile leaves would be suitable as larval food.

I believe one of the reasons why our beautiful Purple Crow has been missing until recently in south-east Queensland is as a result of the recent 6 year drought. It is only in the last 6 months that I have seen the butterfly on the wing in Brisbane.

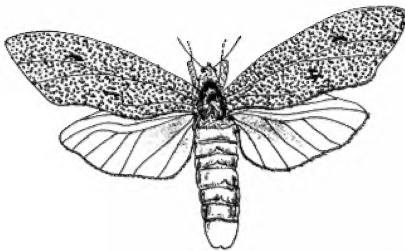
Frank, Lindsay and I saw both the butterfly and the vine at Sapling Pocket - Pine Mountain, Ipswich and at Hollywell on the Gold Coast a few weeks ago. Hopefully with the return to "normal" seasons we will see more plant and butterfly activity.

Potted specimens of the plant are usually hard to come by as it is not all that attractive! However, it would probably grow from cuttings and of course from seed if one was lucky enough to find a fruiting specimen. Stanley & Ross (Flora of South-eastern Queensland Vol.1) states its flowering period as Autumn to Spring! Good luck!!

John Moss

YOU ASKED

Q. Can you please tell me the difference between a Goat Moth and a Ghost Moth?



Xyleutes cinereus

A. Goat (or Wood) Moths belong to the family Cossidae. Ghost (or Swift) Moths

belong to the more primitive family Hepialidae. Larvae of both bore into and eat live standing timber. Mouthparts of adult moths are very much reduced in the Cossidae and totally absent in the Hepialidae.

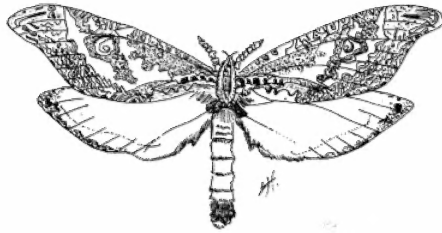
Both families contain some of our largest moths.

One species of Cossid - *Xyleutes cinereus* - is the largest moth by weight of any in Australia and has larvae that feed on the wood of eucalypts. One species of Hepialid - *Zelotypia stacyi* - has the greatest wingspread of any Australian moth (with the exception perhaps of our Hercules Moth).



Hepialids are more brightly coloured and males are often green or (unusual for moths) a pale blue, whereas Cossids are always patterns of shades of brown. They are both attracted to lights and many find their way into domestic areas where they become curiosities.

Zelotypia stacyi



John Moss

Q. What is causing the one third of a centimetre long oblong patches on the bark of my *Diploglottis campbelli* tree. Could it be the red triangle slug?

A. It is probably not a slug as they eat the algae on the bark and not the bark itself. It is most probably the Elephant weevil (*Orthorhinus cylindriastris*). If you look carefully you may even find a fat, brownish-grey beetle with a very long "nose" hiding amongst the branches.

Frank Jordan

HAVE YOU GOT AN INVERTEBRATE STORY TO TELL. THIS MAGAZINE IS FOR THE MEMBERS TO SHARE THEIR OBSERVATIONS AND EXPERIENCES SO PLEASE CONTRIBUTE

LIBRARY BOOKS FOR LOAN

The following books are currently available for loan at meetings:-

Australia's Butterflies, by Peter Wilson

Butterfly Magic, by Helen Schwencke and Frank Jordan

Australian Cicadas, by Max Moulds

Butterflies of Australia, by Common and Waterhouse, 1981

Butterfly Watching, by Paul Whalley

Flying Colours, by Mike and Pat Couper



ADS AND EXCHANGES

Sometimes you may have an oversupply of legally obtained caterpillars of non restricted species and your food supply will not hold out. If this happens, contact Rob MacSloy - 07 3824 4348 - who operates the Register of Host Plants. He can put you in touch with prospective "foster parents". Have **YOU** advised Rob of the host plants you have available?

OTHER GROUP'S ACTIVITIES

The Belmont Hills Conservation Group have invited BOIC members to a bush walk on the morning of Saturday 11 September, 1999, to meet at 8.30 am near the Energex Electricity Sub-Station on Scrub Road, Carindale (This is about .7km south of the intersection of Scrub Road and Old Cleveland Road.) It is envisaged that we will have the opportunity to see the butterflies of "Butterfly Valley". We hope to revisit the Clay Pools along Spring Creek. The walk should be finished around noon to 1 pm. Bring a hat, sturdy walking shoes and morning tea. For further information ring John Moss on 3245 2997

BUTTERFLY AND OTHER INVERTEBRATES CLUB PROGRAMME

- | | |
|--------|--|
| What: | BOIC Planning meeting – all welcome.
We will be planning the club's program and exchanging information and butterfly and invertebrate ideas |
| When: | Thursday, 5 th August, 1999, 6.00-8.30pm |
| Where: | Kay's place, please RSVP Helen ph. 3844 6677, email
hschwenc@dovenetq.net.au to obtain the address |
| Bring: | yourself and a friend |
| <hr/> | |
| What: | The Fun of Photographing Little Things, presented by Robert Ashdown, Education Officer, Queensland Museum. Robert will present slides and a personal account of his wildlife photography efforts especially in the Bayside area |
| When: | Thursday, 12 th August, 1999, 7.30 pm |
| Where: | Staff Room, Runcorn State School, Cnr Mains & Beenleigh Rds.
Runcorn, parking in Ardagie St. |
| Bring: | Yourself and a friend |
| RSVP: | Helen (as above) |
| <hr/> | |
| What: | Firefly Festival – Come and see fireflies display their enchanting lights, and join the campfire, sausage sizzle and entertainment. This activity is organized by the Glossy Black-Cockatoo Branch of the Wildlife Preservation Society of Queensland and Butterfly Club members are welcome to join in – its lots of fun. |
| When: | Saturday, 28 th August, 1999, starting 5.30 pm |



Where:	Warra Court Park, Warra Court, Mudgeeraba (it's in the street directory)
Bring:	torch, strong walking shoes, blanket and folding chairs, and musicians please bring your instruments.
RSVP:	Helen (as above) and let us know you're coming so we can look out for you.
What:	David Barnes' Garden is open as part of the ABC's Open Garden Scheme. It has been included to highlight wildlife gardening. David has invited the Club to hold a stall and for some club members to be involved with guided tours. This is an excellent opportunity to promote the Club, particularly to interested people. You are welcome to visit or to help out.
When:	Saturday, 11th & Sunday 12th September
Where:	52 Bellicent Rd., Bracken Ridge
RSVP:	For more information contact Helen 3844 6677, hschwenc@dovenetq.net.au

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Producing this newsletter is done due to the efforts of:

- Those who sent in letters and articles
- Lois Hughes who provided illustrations and developed the cover
- Daphne Bowden who works on layout, production and distribution
- Stephen McGoldrick who works on production and layout
- John Moss for scientific referencing
- Helen Schwencke who developed the overall design and works on content
- Frank Jordan for inspiration

We would like to thank all these people for their contribution

ARE YOU A MEMBER

Please check your mailing label for the date your membership is due for renewal. If your membership is due, please renew as soon as possible.

Butterfly and Other Invertebrates Club Inc.

c/- PO Box 2041

Runcorn Q 4113



Next Meeting: The Fun of Photographing Little Things, 12th August, 1999

